

MINUTES OF THE
MAG 911 OVERSIGHT TEAM MEETING

October 19, 2000
MAG Office Building, Palo Verde Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Harry Beck, Phoenix Fire Department, Chairman	*Dave Bennett, Phoenix Police Department Dave Jones for Helen Gandara-Zavala, Scottsdale Police Dept.
*Jim Gibson, Glendale Fire Department	*Cliff Jones, Tempe Fire Department
Shelly Bunn, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office	*Lawrence Rodriguez, Tolleson Police Dept.
Dennis L. Donna, Mesa Police Department	
Mike Fusco, Peoria Fire Department	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Beauchat, ADOA	Joe Noce, Mesa Police Department
Valerie Day, MAG	Greg Workman, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Mary Dysinger-Franklin, Phoenix Fire Dept.	Jim Wortham, Phoenix Fire Department
Barbara Jaeger, ADOA	
Susan MacFarlane, Tempe Police Department	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harry Beck at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 10, 2000 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Beck asked if members had any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, Chairman Beck asked for a motion to approve. Mike Fusco moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2000 meeting. Dennis Donna seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Emergency Warning System

Chairman Beck stated that an emergency warning system to notify citizens of evacuation emergencies could be provided by funding from a court settlement reached by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). He introduced Greg Workman, Hazardous Waste Section Manager, ADEQ, who contacted Chairman Beck about this settlement.

Mr. Workman stated that the ADEQ is currently in the settlement process of an enforcement matter. He said that either fines could be collected or the money could be directed to worthwhile projects that could benefit the entire region. Mr. Workman noted that this is an opportunity to enable an emergency service. He indicated that the only requirements are that the project be implemented and be applicable to as many citizens as possible.

Chairman Beck stated that Jim Wortham provided Mr. Workman with an estimate of costs. He stated that the forecast determined that \$2.5 million would fund three years. Chairman Beck stated that the purpose of the meeting was that, in the event that the settlement becomes available, the Oversight Team would take action to accept responsibility for the oversight, development, implementation, and management of the system on an ongoing basis. Chairman Beck informed the members of a recent meeting he attended with MAG staff about proceeding on this potential funding.

Mr. Workman stated that the ADEQ is confident of a resolution on the settlement, because the \$2.5 million figure has been proposed and agreed to. He stated that the money may become available in January.

Chief Fusco stated that currently, the process is basically rescue oriented. An emergency notification system could enable self rescue and evacuation. Dave Jones commented that Scottsdale has a small notification system that was recently activated in the search for a lost child. He explained that their system is insufficient for notifying large areas. Mr. Workman expressed concerns with the activation process. Chairman Beck stated that caution would need to be exercised to activate the system under appropriate circumstances. Mr. Jones commented that a well thought out process is needed.

Chairman Beck stated that the funds would be better than a grant because the Oversight Team would write the objectives, the organization paying the funds does not want recognition, and the ADEQ wants the funds to be a pass through.

Shelly Bunn expressed concern with operations costs after three years. She commented on Mike Branham's interest in a reverse 911 system. Ms. Bunn stated that the Sheriff's Office currently has a system in Avondale, which is difficult to maintain because it is an old proprietary system.

Chairman Beck stated that an action plan is needed to provide ongoing funding. He noted that reverse 911 implies usage of the current 911 database, but an entirely different system would be needed. Chairman Beck commented on the challenge ahead to provide for ongoing funding.

Dennis Donna commented on establishing a trust fund to cover future operating costs. Chairman Beck brought up the option that the city that activates the system would pay to defray the costs. Mr. Donna commented on costs to smaller cities.

Mr. Workman requested that a plan to the ADEQ be drafted by December. He noted that the ADEQ requires that the plan include two things. Mr. Workman stated that requirement number one is where the money will go. He indicated that in discussions with EPA, they have indicated that the notification system fits in with policies and guidelines. Mr. Workman stated that requirement number two is a conceptual plan that includes a timeline, funding mechanism and oversight. Chairman Beck stated that the Oversight Team would begin the process. After the money is secured, the structure of the oversight group can be formed. He indicated that aggressive management is needed. Once the process has begun, it is important to keep momentum going.

Ms. Bunn asked for clarification of the motion needed. Chairman Beck stated that the action needed is for the Oversight Team to accept the funds from ADEQ and responsibility for the design, development, management, and implementation of the system, with MAG as the accounting entity

pending the settlement funds becoming available. The anticipated action would then be sent to the Management Committee and Regional Council for consideration.

Ms. Bunn moved to recommend accepting the funds from the ADEQ and responsibility for the design, development, management, and implementation of the system, with MAG as the accounting entity pending the settlement funds becoming available. Chief Fusco seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. MAG 911 Five Year System Management Plan

Chairman Beck expressed his thanks to MAG staff for the document that was sent to Management Committee for their consideration at their October 18, 2000 meeting. He stated that the Committee unanimously recommended approval. Chairman Beck stated that the Plan would be considered by the Regional Council on November 1, 2000. He noted that copies of the Plan would be distributed to interested parties after the anticipated approval to gain their support. Chairman Beck stated that the cities's intergovernmental liaisons expressed concern for the additional funding needs. He indicated that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns recently adopted a resolution to support additional funding. Chairman Beck stated that discussions are continuing with the Legislative lobbyist to discuss an approach. Updates will be placed on upcoming agendas for information. Chairman Beck commented that it appears there is support for additional funding. He stated that legislation needs to be drafted in time for the session. A strong position and statement addressing needs are needed. Chairman Beck stated that providing the Plan document to the highest level of decision makers could help gain support. Chairman Beck stated that he gave a presentation on the Plan at the Unified Commanders Group. He asked for suggestions of other groups that would be helpful in their support. Mr. Donna suggested the Arizona Chiefs of Police Association.

Chairman Beck stated that the anticipated increase will be significant, and could go as high as 300 percent. Preparing people for this increase is needed. Chairman Beck stated that hard numbers would be determined and presented at the next meeting within one month to six weeks. He clarified that legislation would be statewide. Chief Fusco stated that he would request that this be on the next Fire Chief's agenda.

Chairman Beck updated members on concerns about the funding shortfall expressed at the Management Committee meeting. Barbara Jaeger stated that the cost for retrofitting systems has increased dramatically. What had previously cost \$250,000 now costs over \$1 million. Ms. Jaeger stated that discontinued systems must be replaced this year and next year. Chairman Beck handed out copies of the updated 911 Revenue and Expenditure Projections. Ms. Jaeger indicated that funds would be available into FY 2002. Larry Beauchamp handed out a chart showing a comparison of land line and wireless funding surcharges in other states. He commented that the surcharge levied in Arizona is a low rate compared to other states. Chairman Beck noted that this comparison chart would be helpful to show committees. He noted that a speaker's packet would be compiled at the next meeting. Ms. Jaeger informed members of a critical incident forum being held on January 17, 2001. She indicated that the FCC and other experts attend this forum.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.